THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT : (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Around 2120 Wakf properties in Punjab, 630 in Haryana and 26 in Himachal Pradesh are under encroachment.

(b) to (d) No Sir, Punjab Wakf Board is taking effective steps for removal of encroachment and retrieval of Wakf properties by filing a number of cases in courts against the encroachers. The Board has issued notices to the encroachers under section 54 of Wakf Act 1995.

Leasing System of Properties in PWB

3151. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the present non-transparent leasing system of properties in Punjab Wakf Board is the root cause of large-scale corruption;

(b) whether the leasing by open auction can be a transparent and corruption free system; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No Sir. The Punjab Wakf Board leases out Wakf properties, as per clearly defined Rent Schedule.

(b) and (c) Leasing of Wakf property by open auction is not feasible as there is no free hold land in the possession of the Board. The properties are either in the possession of the tenants or lessees.

Non-Revision of Rental and Lease Money of PWB Properties

3152. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in case of thousands of Wakf properties in Punjab Wakf Board the rentals and lease money have not been revised since long;

(b) whether it is a fact that rents/lease money is not automatically revised after a regular interval;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No. Sir. Rent and lease money are revised by the Punjab Wakf Board for the new occupants in case of transfer of properties and the new allottee in case of death of sitting tenants. In some fresh cases, the Board imposes condition for enhancement from 10% to 20% after every three years. In rural area, Chakota amounts are revised every year as per the schedule of the Board. Only in the case of sitting tenants, it has been found difficult to enhance rent due to their resistance for the same and the Board has to initiate legal action against such tenants/lessee.

(d) The Board is initiating a comprehensive Action Plan to settle cases, where rentals and lease money have not been revised for a long time.

Solar Home Lighting for SCs/STs in Tripura

3153. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any project proposal has been sent by Government of Tripura for providing solar home lighting system to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes people of Tripura during the Ninth Plan Period.

(b) whether fund has been sought for the purpose as additional Central assistance;

(c) the projected number of beneficiaries; and

(d) the details of the fund released during the period 1997-98 and 1999-2000 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir. As per information received from Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of Tripura Formulated Tripura Tribal Development Project during 1998-99, which included provision of Solar Home Lighting System and submitted it to Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) Yes Sir,